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Grammar, that the Irish language of four hundred years back, is *totally* different from the present in sense and orthography: therefore if this Glossary *were* written in the tenth century, it could not be intelligible *now*; and as quotations from it are given and translated in our time, it can not be the work of so early an age.

In reply to this half reasoning I say, that the work was not to *serve as an interpreter to the* PRECEDENT *Irish language*, but to give the derivation of Irish words most of which were *then*, and *now* are, in constant use; wherefore the learned O'Flaherty calls it the Etymological *Book of Cormac, Bishop and King of Munster*. The language is ancient, and EXTREMELY *difficult*, and many parts of it are perfectly unintelligible to those who read and understand only the modern Irish language.

Ledwich's exclamations against this work are wild in the extreme; and in order to show the shallowness of his remarks, I shall set down here a few quotations from the Glossary, showing that parts of it might be quoted and understood, were it even the production of the third century.

It begins with the word ADAM, which is explained by the Latin, "*homo* vel *terrigena*, vel *truncus*."

"*Antichristus* Græcè dicitur quod est Latinè contrarius Christo: antj Graecé, *contra* Latinè significat."

"ajṁjn, ab eo quod est *amœnum*" .j. ajḃjn.

"Ajṙcjṅeć, i. e. ajṙcendać, aṙcoṙ Græcè *excelsus* Latinè dicitur."

"Ane (the name of a territory) de nomine Ajne jnġene Eoġabajl."

"Ajṙljnġe .j. ljnġe aṙ, vel absque linguâ .j. cen labṙaḋ jnte .j. jṙjn tenġajḋ."

"Annać .j. andaġ, i. e. non daġ, non bonum Daġ Ebraicé bonum interpretatur; droć Ebraicè *malum* interpretatur."

"Buanand, quasi mater erat na ṙjan."

"Bo, (a cow,) nomen de sono factum est suæ vocis."

"Manandan mac ljṙ .j. cendajḋe amṙa boj j njnjṙ manand. Ba he luamajṙe jṙ dec boj jn j aṙtaṙ Domajn. Ro ṙjndad trja nemġnać (.j. trja ġnaćuġad jn njme .j. jn eojṙ) jn uajṙ no bejt jn t-ṙojnend acoṙ jn dojnend acoṙ jn tan noṙ ćloećlobaḋ cectaṙ de aṙ ṙe; Inde Scotici Britonesque eum Deum vocaverunt maris, eum filium maris esse dixerunt, i. e. mac ljṙ. De nomine Manandan Insula Monandain dicta est."

From these quotations it is evident that many passages in this Glossary are quite intelligible to a Latin Scholar, and that by the assistance of the Latin part he might, without much difficulty, learn the signification of the Irish.

As far as the mere explanation of words is concerned, this Glossary is not so unintelligible as Ledwich thought it should be if it were the production of the tenth century. It must be acknowledged, however, that many quotations given in this Glossary from the SEANCHUS MOR, and other tracts of the ancient laws of Ireland, and from the poetry of writers of the 7th and 8th centuries, are extremely difficult and unintelligible to all except those who have made ancient Irish lore their particular study and pursuit.

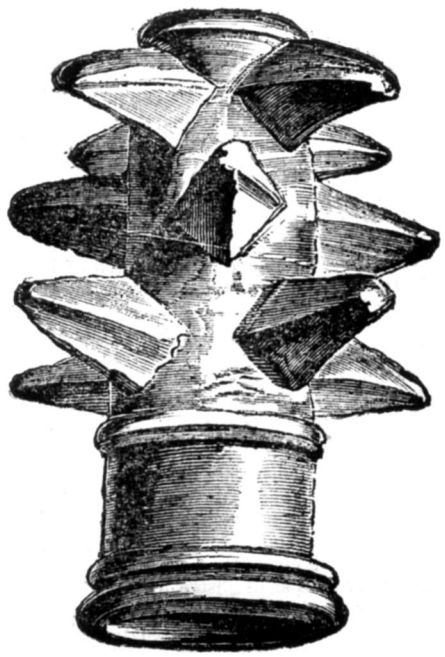
The orthography, and even syntax of many passages in this Glossary, though quite different from the modern language of Ireland, are not however so disguised as to be altogether unintelligible, as we shall make appear in our next article upon this curious remnant of ancient Irish lore, which still remains as a kind of index to works which time has hurled into the gulph of oblivion.

The Irish language has not suffered such violent changes as Ledwich endeavoured to prove; all our Irish scholars have asserted the contrary—as the learned O'Flaherty, in Ogygia, and Ogygia Vindicated; and Charles O'Conor, of Belanagare, in a note upon Ogygia Vindicated, p. 20, where he has the following words:—

"The Scotic language suffered, indeed, no alterations except such as the course of time necessarily introduces into *every living tongue*: new words are introduced, others become obsolete, and some innovations are made in the phraseology. When we compare the language of *Brogan, Fiagh of Slebty, Columb-Kille*, and other writers of the sixth century, with that of the writers of the tenth and eleventh, we will easily discover instances of such variations; *and we have reason to wonder that the number is not considerable*. Through the disuse of the *Scotic* language in the courts of the kings of *Scotland*, since the tenth century, and the neglect since that age of preserving it in Schools and literary compositions, the phraseology of the *British* Scots has suffered the corruptions unavoidable in dialects learned solely by the ear. It is thus in the dialects of the *Vulgar Irish* at present, although it be little more than a hundred years since the *Schools wherein the Irish language hath been taught in its purity, have failed*."—*Ogygia Vindicated, p.* 20.

JOHN O'DONOVAN.

ANCIENT IRISH WAR CLUB.



The unique and hitherto undescribed implement of war, of which the above woodcut is an exact representation, was found, some years since, in the county of Roscommon, and is now in the possession of Mr. Underwood, of Sandymount. It is of bronze, hollowed, so as to receive a handle at one end, and, perhaps a ball or spear at the other. Like all our *very* ancient weapons, its workmanship is of distinguished excellence; and we have not found any thing resembling it in the published antiquities of any other country.

That the ancient Irish had war clubs called *crannibh*, appears from old authorities: in an insurrection in the Friary of St. Saviour, (county of Dublin,) in 1381, we are informed that some of the brethren were armed with clubs. (Mon. Hib. p. 208.) P.

CURIOUS FACT.

Many years ago, a man named Owen Cunningham, was employed by a gentleman in Mourne, to dig up a sallow tree of considerable magnitude, that encumbered a particular part of his garden. In the course of the work, the man was surprised to find at the bottom of the tree, a vessel which adhered firmly to its roots. On raising it up, it proved to be an anker of Geneva, which some person had buried there at a remote period, and had for-